

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00580 170910Z

17

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 L-03 EB-11 INR-10 SS-20 RSC-01

DRC-01 /079 W

----- 056801

P R 170822Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5407

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0580

USDOC FOR STEPHEN CONGER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, GD, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BONGO'S DESIRE TO PURCHASE DC-8 IN U.S.

REF: LIBREVILLE 0530

1. PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRESIDENT BONGO, SHOWED EMBASSY MAY 16 (AND GAVE US COPY OF) CONTRACT SIGNED BETWEEN GOG AND UTA WITH REGARD TO MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF DC-8 AIRCRAFT GOG SEEKING TO PURCHASE FROM SEABOARD IN U.S. AGREEMENT BEARS SIGNATURES OF PRESIDENT BONGO, FINANCE MINISTER MOUKAMBI, AND REPRESENTATIVE OF UTA. COPY OF TWELVE-PAGE DOCUMENT BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT.

2. CONTRACT STATES THAT PRIORITY USE OF PLANE WILL BE FOR PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL. AGREEMENT GOES ON TO STATE "WHEN AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE USED AS PRESIDENTIAL PLANE AND WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MORE THAN A WEEK AT A TIME, IT WILL BE USED ON REGULAR COMMERCIAL UTA/AIR AFRIQUE LINES IN CONFORMITY WITH THE DISPOSITIONS OF THE TREATY OF YAOUNDE." LATER ON IN THE AGREEMENT IT IS FURTHER SPELLED OUT THAT WHEN PLANE NOT USED FOR PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL IT WILL RETAIN MARKINGS SHOWING THAT IT BELONGS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIBREV 00580 170910Z

TO THE GABONESE REPUBLIC ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENTIAL

EMBLEM WILL BE APPROPRIATELY COVERED.

3. SHORTLY AFTER I RECEIVED COPY OF CONTRACT, PRESIDENT BONGO CALLED ME (MAY 16) TO ASK ME WHERE MATTER STOOD AND TO TELL ME GOG HAD JUST RECEIVED LETTER FROM OAU SECRETARIAT STATING THAT IT HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM USG BUT CONSIDERED IT MOST UNUSUAL PROCEDURE FOR OAU TO BE ASKED BY NON-MEMBER STATE TO PASS PRIOR JUDGMENT ON ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY CHIEF OF MEMBER STATE. OAU LETTER, ADDRESSED TO GOG FONMIN, DID HOWEVER MENTION THAT MATTER REFERRED TO OAU PRESIDENT. BONGO THEN ASKED ME WHAT USG INTENDED TO DO IN LIGHT OF OAU OBVIOUS RELUCTANCE TO BECOME INVOLVED. I REPLIED THAT WE FELT OBLIGED TO AWAIT REACTION OF OAU PRESIDENT GOWON BEFORE TAKING ANY DECISION. BONGO MERELY SAID "D'ACCORD" AND HUNG UP. WHILE HE NEITHER BEGGED, RAVED OR THREATENED BUT DISCUSSED MATTER WITH POLITE RESTRAINT, IT EVIDENT FROM HIS PERSONAL CALL TO ME, IF INDEED FURTHER EVIDENCE NEEDED, THAT HE CONTINUES TO PLACE UTMOST IMPORTANCE ON ISSUE AND ANXIOUSLY AWAITING OUR DECISION.

4. MEANWHILE, I HAVE LEARNED FROM RELIABLE FRENCH BUSINESS SOURCE NOT REPEAT NOT CONNECTED WITH THE GOG THAT MATTER OF MORRISON-KNUDSEN PARTICIPATION IN RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL DECISION TAKEN BY USG ON DC-8. SINCE THIS INFORMATION WAS NOT REPEAT NOT CONVEYED TO ME THROUGH ANY GABONESE SOURCE, IT CANNOT BE CONSTRUED AS FORM OF PRESSURE ON US FOR FAVORABLE DECISION ON DC-8 BUT IT CLEARLY CORROBORATES CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY EMBASSY IN REFTEL.
MCKESSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, CONSTRUCTION, AIRCRAFT SALES, RAILROADS, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LIBREV00580
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740122-0503
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740539/aaaabikt.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LIBREVILLE 0530
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT BONGO'S DESIRE TO PURCHASE DC-8 IN U.S.
TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, GB, US, (BONGO, ALBERT-BERNARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005